



THE THING

WEIRD TALES OF SUSPENSE AND HORROR

No 15

THE

THING!

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

10¢





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In 10 Minutes of **FUN** a day I changed myself

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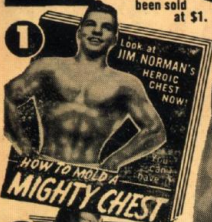
Ken
GRIMM
AFTER
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from this
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**SKINNY
SHRIMP**

Ken Grimm **BEFORE**
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to
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RED-BLOODED
HEAD-TO-TOE
HE-MAN!**



I just
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as I and **THOUSANDS** have
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6 inches to each **ARM** and
the rest in proportion as I did.

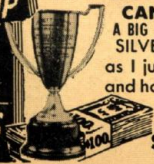
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THE THING

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THE THING

OUT OF THE MICROSCOPIC DEEP IT CAME--
THIS TERRIBLE, HUNGRY MUTANT WORM
THAT ATE EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH. AND
THOSE WHO TRIED STOPPING IT WERE
DISSOLVED IN THE SICKLY OOZE OF
DEATH! WHAT WAS THE HORROR
THAT NORMAN THOMA HAD UNLEASHED
ON THE WORLD? HOW COULD
IT BE CONQUERED? HOW
INDEED-- WHEN ---

THE WORM TURNS

AS TOLD BY

The Thing



THE PROFESSOR HELD
THE MEDICAL CLASS
IN RAPT ATTENTION
AS HE DESCRIBED THE
ORIGIN OF THE WORLD!
IT WAS THE LECTURE
THAT BEGAN THE
HIDEOUS HORROR
OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN!



LIFE IS AN EVER-CONSTANT
BATTLE FOR
THE SURVIVAL OF THE
FITTEST! EACH OF US
HAS BATTLED COUNT-
LESS VIRUSES,
BACTERIA AND GERMS
IN ORDER TO
LIVE!

"BUT PICTURE TO
YOURSELF THE
WORLD AS IT
EXISTED MILLIONS
OF YEARS AGO--
WHERE SAVAGE

BEASTS ATE SAVAGE
BEASTS--AND
NONE BUT THE
MOST VICIOUS
SURVIVED ...



THE THING

ON SEA--ON LAND--EVERYWHERE
GIGANTIC CREATURES FOUGHT AND
BLED AND DIED TO GAIN A FEW MOMENTS
OF PRECIOUS LIFE ON THE WORLD...



AND EVERYWHERE,
THE BALANCE OF
LIFE KEPT CONSTANT.
NO ONE SPECIES
MULTIPLIED TO
COMPLETELY OVER-
WHELM THE WORLD.
INSECTS FOUND
THEIR NATURAL
ENEMIES IN BIRD
AND MAN... AND
THE WORLD EVOLVED
NORMALLY...



MEDICAL
STUDENTS
NORMAN
THOMA
AND JANE
WELLEN
WALKED
OUT
OF THE
LECTURE
VERY
THOUGHT-
FUL
AND
SOMBER...

JUST IMAGINE! TAKE AWAY THE
CHECKS AND BALANCE OF A
SPECIES AND IT CAN PROPO-
GATE TO THE POINT OF
KILLING EVERYTHING ELSE
ON THE EARTH!

IF ONLY WE COULD
CREATE SUCH A SPECIES,
JANE, WE COULD DISCOVER
THE SECRET OF LIFE!



WHY--
HOW
COULD
THAT
BE?



CONTROLLING
SUCH A
SPECIES CAN
ENABLE
ANYONE TO
CONTROL
LIFE. IF
LIFE IS
CONTROLLED,
WE CAN
WIPE OUT
CANCER,
ELIMINATE
DEATH--
GAIN
IMMOR-
TALITY!

AND THAT WAS NORMAN THOMA'S FIRST CONTACT WITH THE IDEA.
TEN YEARS LATER, A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH SCIENTIST, HE BEGAN
HIS EXPERIMENTS TO FIND SUCH A SUPER-SPECIES!

I'LL BEGIN BY SELECTING THE ONLY ORGANISM
CAPABLE OF UNSPECIFIED PHYSIOLOGY--THE
AMOEBAS. NO OTHER ORGANISM CAN
SURVIVE UNDER THE CONDITIONS
THE AMOEBAS CAN!



JANUARY 4... HAVE ELIMINATED ALL FORMS
OF AMOEBAS BUT ONE--A LARGE GIANT TYPE
THAT SEEMS TO THRIVE ON ORGANIC
MATERIAL OF PUTREFACTION. AM ADDING
GROWTH LIQUID TO MUTATE ORGANISM...



THE THING

MARCH 9--HAVE MOVED TO LARGE DESERTED HOUSE ON HILL--IDEAL PLACE TO CONDUCT MY EXPERIMENTS. ORGANISM HAS GROWN ANOTHER THREE MILLIMETERS. AM EXPECTING BETTER RESULTS...

CRACK

MAY 26--HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TRANSFERRING ORGANISM INTO NUTRIENT VAT. ORGANISM HAS TAKEN SHAPE OF SMALL EARTH WORM. WILL ADD CAREFULLY-REGULATED VOLTAGE FOR EFFECT...

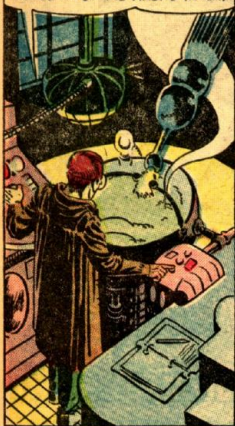
SEPTEMBER 14--SUCCESS! AT LEAST --FROM THIS PATH OF RESEARCH. ORGANISMS ARE MULTIPLYING AGAIN BUT NOT GROWING. VOLTAGE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE ANSWER...

NOVEMBER 3...AFTER 1005 EXPERIMENTS TO CONTROL THE DEGREE OF ULTRA-VIOLET CONCENTRATION, HAVE ESTABLISHED RATIO TO CORRECT AMOUNT. AM PROCEEDING AS PLANNED.

NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING! MAYBE I'M ON THE WRONG TRACK,

MAYBE IF I ARRANGED THE COSMIC BOMBARDMENT TO INCLUDE ULTRA-VIOLET! IT'S A GOOD CHANCE!

THEY'RE GROWING IN SIZE. I'VE DISCOVERED ONE OF THE STEPS TO LIFE! NOW I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT THEY'RE INVULNERABLE!



I PLANNED TO VISIT YOU. THEN I HEARD WILD RUMORS ABOUT THE WORK YOU WERE DOING. IS IT-- TRUE?

YES! I'VE SUCCEEDED BEYOND MY WILDEST EXPECTATIONS! I'VE CREATED A SUPER-SPECIES CAPABLE OF RESISTING ANY GERM, VIRUS OR ANIMAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! WATCH!

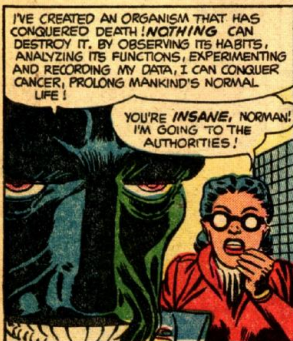
AND ONE AFTER-NOON WHILE THE SCIENTIST WORKED, THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENED, AND...

NORMAN! I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

JANE! WHAT DO YOU WANT? GET OUT OF HERE! I'M BUSY!



THE THING



YOU'RE *INSANE*, NORMAN!
I'M GOING TO THE
AUTHORITIES!



LET GO! YOU'RE...
CHOKING ME...!
CAN'T BREATHE...
URGH-H...

MOMENTS LATER, A SHATTERED
MAN WAS SOBBING OVER THE
SILENT BODY OF HIS VICTIM...

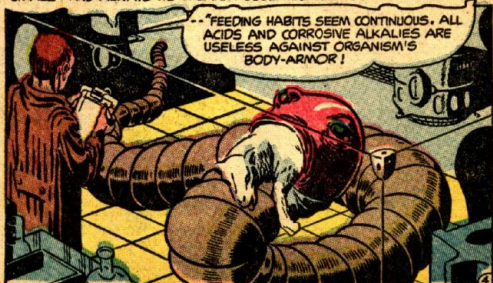


GOOD LORD!..
WHAT...HAVE
...I DONE ?
I'VE ...
KILLED !
I'VE
KILLED !



BUT I KILLED
SO THAT HUMANITY
COULD BE
BENEFITED!
I CAN'T BE
STOPPED NOW!
AND I'VE GOT
JUST THE
WAY TO GET
RID OF HER!

THE WORM-ORGANISM NOW BEGAN TO ACCELERATE IN GROWTH. ITS HUNGER WAS INSATIABLE. IT'S MAW DEVoured DOZENS OF CREATURES--BIG AND SMALL--AND ALWAYS ITS CREATOR OBSERVED AND TOOK NOTES...



...FEEDING HABITS SEEM CONTINUOUS. ALL
ACIDS AND CORROSIVE ALKALIES ARE
USELESS AGAINST ORGANISM'S
BODY-ARMOR!

THE THING

SOON---NORMAN THOMA HAD TO FEED IT LARGER AND LARGER PORTIONS. THE WORM-MONSTER DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR RED MEAT--JUICY, FRESH MEAT THAT THE SCIENTIST HAD TO SNEAK TO THE HOUSE ALMOST EVERY DAY...

LET'S FOLLOW THAT BIRD! I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'S GOT SOMETHING COOPED UP THERE! AND I WANT TO SEE WHAT IT IS!

THEY FOUND OUT! GOOD LORD!

FOR THERE--INSIDE THE CELLAR, TOWERED A HORROR THAT KNEW NO COMPARISON!

NO! NOT YET--! DON'T DO IT! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH MY EXPERIMENTS. YOU'LL DESTROY THE SECRET OF LIFE, YOU FOOLS!

GET BACK, MISTER! YOU'RE NUTS!

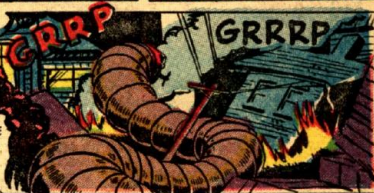
I'LL KILL AGAIN IF I MUST! I'LL-- AGHHHH!

BLAM BLAM

CALL THE SQUAD! ALERT ALL THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN TOWN! THIS--THING--IS TOO LARGE FOR US TO HANDLE!

KILL IT, DAN! HURRY--!

BUT ONWARD CAME THE SLITHERING MENACE-- EATING, CRUSHING, DEVOURING ALL-- INVULNERABLE TO ANYTHING MAN-MADE!



THE NATIONAL GUARDS, ARMY AND COMBINED ATTACK UNITS OF THE NATION CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE MONSTER-- BUT TO NO AVAIL!

ORDER A RETREAT! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME!



THE THING

MANKIND RALLIED
AGAINST THE
WORM ---AND
REELED BACK--
DEFEATED!
CITIES--MIGHTY
FORTRESSES
AGAINST SAVAGERY
---TOPPLED TO
THE GROUND!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES! THE
WORM HUNTS FOR HUMANS!

LIFE CAME TO FULL CYCLE--
THE WORM DIVIDED--MULTI-
PLIED--PRODUCED MYRIADS
OF DUPLICATES. AND THOSE
DUPLICATES ATE AND GREW
LARGER STILL--

THE HYDROGEN BOMB,
MICROBE WARFARE,
NEW WEAPONS,
SCIENTIFIC GADGETS--
ALL PROVED HOPELESS
--AND FINALLY THE
WORM FACED MAN-
KIND ON ITS LAST
STAGE OF DEFENSE!

AND IN TIME, THE WORMS COMBINED INTO ONE GIANT
WORM THAT COVERED THE GLOBE LIKE A FAT SLUG
FEASTING ON VEGETATION, MINERAL--THE LAST DEN-
ZEN OF A FALLEN PLANET...

WE'LL ALL DIE! WE'RE
THE LAST HUMANS ON
EARTH!

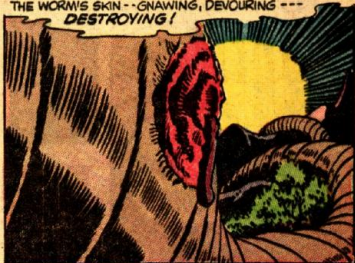
THERE'S
GOT TO BE
ANOTHER WAY TO
SURVIVE! THERE
HAS TO BE!



THESE HILLS
ARE OUR
FINAL CHANCE!

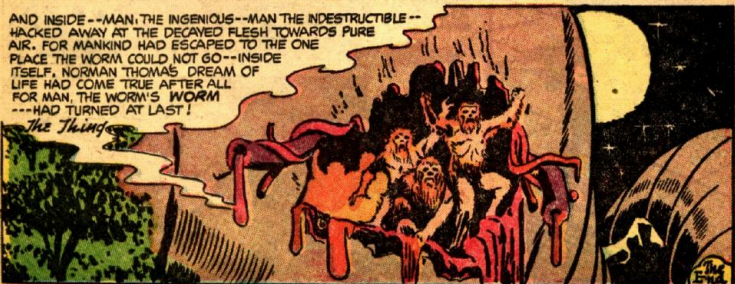


FOR COUNTLESS EONS THE WORM CONTINUED FEEDING
AND GROWING UNTIL LAYER COVERED LAYER--AND
BULK PRODUCED BULK. THEN--ONE MORNING--A
GREAT TUMOR-LIKE GROWTH APPEARED UNDERNEATH
THE WORM'S SKIN--GNAWING, DEVOURING ---
DESTROYING!



AND INSIDE--MAN, THE INGENIOUS--MAN THE INDESTRUCTIBLE--
HACKED AWAY AT THE DECAYED FLESH TOWARDS PURE
AIR. FOR MANKIND HAD ESCAPED TO THE ONE
PLACE THE WORM COULD NOT GO--INSIDE
ITSELF. NORMAN THOMAS DREAM OF
LIFE HAD COME TRUE AFTER ALL
FOR MAN, THE WORM'S WORM
---HAD TURNED AT LAST!

The Thing

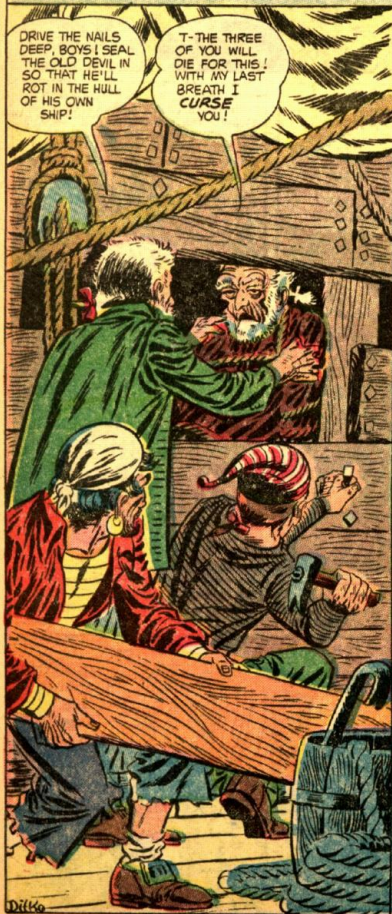


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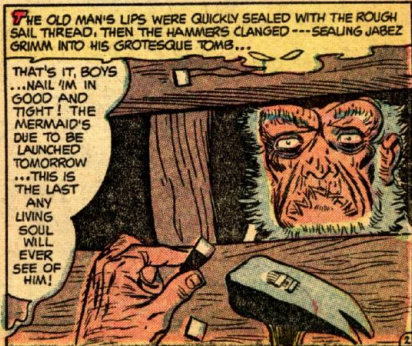
THOSE WHO KNEW HIM CALLED JABEZ GRIMM A TIGHT-FISTED SKINFUNT... A CADAVEROUS OLD TIGHTWAD WHO PINCHED A COIN SO HARD THE METAL FOREVER AFTER BORE HIS FINGERPRINT! WHILE HIS SHIPBUILDING YARD MADE HIM RICH, HIS WORKERS WALLOWED IN THE BITTEREST POVERTY. AND SO, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT FINALLY THERE SHOULD COME A GRISLY...

DAY OF RECKONING!

as told By The Thing

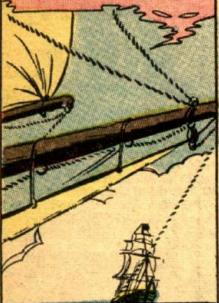


THE THING



THE THING

JABEZ GRIMM'S STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE WASN'T NOTED FOR A WEEK. BY THAT TIME THE THREE WORKERS HAD GONE THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. SAM BRAY, CURIOUSLY, SIGNED ON AS SEAMAN ABOARD THE MERMAID. A MONTH LATER...



SAIL ON THE HORIZON!
L-LOOKS LIKE
...IT IS
A PIRATE
SHIP!



THE ALARM SOUNDED AND ALL SAILS WERE HURRIEDLY SET, BUT SOMETHING SLOWED THE MERMAID'S FRANTIC FLIGHT AND, IN A FEW MINUTES...



SECURE THE SCHOONER, BUCKOS! CUT DOWN ANY FOOL WHO RAISES A HAND AGAINST US! AND BRING THE CREW F'WARD TO ME!

YOU'RE ALL SMART TO JOIN MY MEN ...WE CAN ALL MAKE OUR FORTUNES BY MARAUDING THE SEAS! WELCOME, NEW CREW MEMBERS!

HE'S GONNA SPARE OUR LIVES, BUT I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT WEIRD CACKLING LAUGH I KEEP HEARING! I-I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARS IT...



T-THAT CRAZY LAUGH ...IT'S GETTING LOUDER! W-WHY CAN'T ANYONE ELSE ...AGHHH!

THE ANCHOR CHAIN ...IT'S UNWINDING! NO ONE TOUCHED IT, YET...YET...



H-HELP...
YUUU!

G-GOOD LORD...THE POOR DEVIL'S DONE FOR, DRAGGED DOWN BY THE ANCHOR! S-SAY ...DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE A CRAZY LAUGH?



I-I'D ALMOST SWEAR IT SOUNDED LIKE...

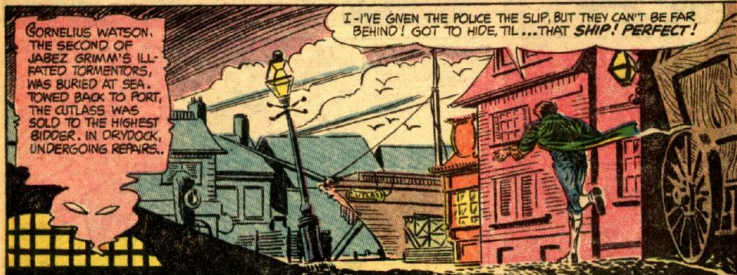
NAW! JUST YOUR NERVES, FRIEND! A TERRIBLE THING LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH TO RATTLE ANYONE! THAT NOISE...JUST THE BUMPING OF THE CHAIN AS IT SLID INTO THE SEA! LET'S HAVE SOME RUM...AND FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENED!



THE THING



THE THING



THE THING

HURRY UP... SOMETHING'S TRAPPED IN THERE!

THE SCREAMING STOPPED...M-MEBBE WE'RE TOO LATE! QUICK...HACK AWAY AT THE REST OF THE HULL TIMBERS!



S-SEEMS TO BE A BODY IN THERE! IT...IT'S FALLING OUT!



GOOD LORD! IT'S A MAN...HIS HEAD'S NEARLY TORN FROM HIS BODY! M-MUST'VE HAPPENED JUST NOW...THE POOR BEGGAR'S BLOOD IS STILL FLOWING!



THE DEAD MAN IS HORATIO DARROW, ACCORDING TO THESE PAPERS IN HIS POCKET HE'S JUST ESCAPED FROM PRISON! CONVICT OR NOT, HE'S BEEN MURDERED! QUICK! CLIMB INTO THE HULL...DRAG OUT WHO-EVER BUTCHERED HIM!



THE MOMENTS DRAGGED BY INTERMINABLY, FOR THOSE WAITING NERVOUSLY OUTSIDE. THEN, AT LAST, THE TWO TREMBLING MEN CLAMBERED OUT...

A-ALL I COULD FIND IS THIS STINKING PILE OF OLD CLOTHES... MUST'VE BEEN ROTTING DOWN THERE FOR A YEAR!

AND ALONGSIDE IT...A LENGTH OF DECAYING ROPE, AND A SAILMAKER'S NEEDLE AND THREAD! NOTHING ELSE!



B-BUT WE SEARCHED IT THOROUGHLY, INCH BY INCH! THERE WASN'T A SIGN OF ANYONE... ANYONE WE COULD S-SEE, THAT IS!

T-THAT UNEARTHLY LAUGH...IT'S COMING FROM... FROM THERE!



SAM BRAY, CORNELIUS WATSON, HORATIO DARROW...ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENT DEATH, AS PROPHESED BY JABEZ GRIMM! COINCIDENCE? ACCIDENT? WE MAY NEVER KNOW, 'TIL THE FINAL... DAY OF RECKONING! *The Thing*

THE THING

The Thing presents **COMEBACK!**

REMEMBER FLEKO, THE GROTESQUE LITTLE MAN WHOSE ENTIRE BODY WAS COMPOSED OF SOMETHING STRANGELY LIKE RUBBER? IF YOU FREQUENT TOURING CARNIVALS AND FREAK SHOWS YOU'VE GAWKED AT HIM...UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY HE EXCITED THE INTEREST OF MILLIONS OF MORBIDLY CURIOUS PEOPLE. EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS WEIRD CREATURE...WHAT POWER LURED HIM AWAY FROM THE WORLD OF SIDESHOWS? WELL...HEE HEE...HERE'S A HOT LITTLE YARN TO MELT YOUR HEART...

G-GOOD LORD...SHE MUST HAVE THOUSANDS IN GEMS IN THERE! ENOUGH TO GET ME OUT OF THIS LIFE...AWAY FROM THESE PRYING EYES AND IDIOTIC RUBES WHO THINK ME A FREAK! B-BUT THOSE SNAKES OF HERS...BRRR!



BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE BROODDED OVER HIS PLIGHT, FLEKO NEVER SEEMED ABLE TO SAVE ENOUGH TO ESCAPE FROM THE TWILIGHT WORLD OF CARNIVALS...

FREAKS...MISFITS...MONSTERS! THAT'S ALL I'M EVER SURROUNDED BY! MONEY COULD BUY MY FREEDOM...IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON A BIG BUNDLE!



I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING LOOKED AT AS IF I WAS...WHAT'S THIS? SATANA...MUST BE SOMEONE NEW TO THE SHOW! WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

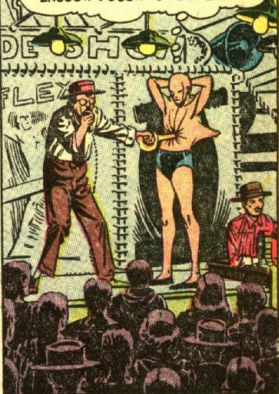
WONDER WHAT HER TRICK IS! BAH! THEY'RE ALL FRAUDS HERE...ALL EXCEPT ME! AND JUST BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT THAN OTHER MEN, I'M CONSIDERED A FREAK LIKE THESE PHONIES!

5-SHE JUST GLARES WITH HER EYES...AND FIRE COMES OUTTA THAT EMPTY JAR! WOW!



FLEKO WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ATTRACTIONS IN THE LAND...WHEREVER HE APPEARED THOUSANDS CAME TO LOOK AND WONDER! BUT FLEKO WAS SAD, FOR HIS LIFE WAS NOT COMPLETE...

MONEY...THAT'S WHAT I NEED! IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON ENOUGH DOUGH TO RETIRE...



THE THING



FOR YEARS FLE XO HAD SEETHED WITH BITTERNESS AND FRUSTRATION. THEN, SUDDENLY, THAT SAME NIGHT HE FIRST SAW SATANA...

M-MUST BE A FORTUNE IN JEWELRY IN THAT CHEST! ENOUGH OF A STAKE FOR ME TO START A NEW LIFE! I'D LIKE TO BUST IN AND...BUT THOSE SNAKES OF HERS...! THERE MUST BE A WAY!

FLE XO WENT BACK TO HIS TENT AND SCHEMED THROUGH THE NIGHT. THEN, AFTER THE NEXT EVENING'S PERFORMANCE WAS OVER...

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE LONELY... BEING NEW TO THE SHOW AND NOT HAVING ANY FRIENDS! THIS ISN'T MUCH...JUST MY WAY OF SAYING HELLO!

W-WHY, HOW NICE! WON'T YOU COME IN AND TALK?



I-I'D LOVE TO...BUT I'M SCARED TO DEATH OF SNAKES! KNIVES, AXES, ROPES, BULLETS...THEY HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME...BUT REPTILES AND FIRE...

H-HOW STUPID OF ME...YOU'RE FLE XO, THE RUBBER MAN! I'LL PUT MY PETS AWAY RIGHT NOW!

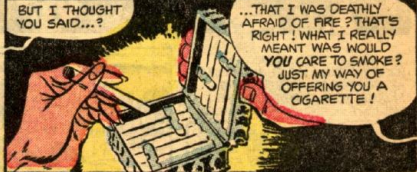


THERE...NOW THEY CAN'T BOTHER YOU! I'M REALLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE SOMEONE BRING ME FLOWERS AND CANDY...

I'VE BEEN LONESOME MYSELF, SATANA! I THINK WE CAN BECOME GREAT FRIENDS...MIND IF I SMOKE?

BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID...?

...THAT I WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF FIRE? THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT I REALLY MEANT WAS WOULD YOU CARE TO SMOKE? JUST MY WAY OF OFFERING YOU A CIGARETTE!



THROUGH NARROWED EYES, FLE XO WATCHED AS SPIRALS OF BLUE SMOKE BEGAN TO FILL THE TENT...

QUITE A STUNT...LIGHTING A CIGARETTE BY WAVING YOUR HANDS AND GLARING AT IT! JUST A TRICK, I SUPPOSE...

NOT AT ALL! I DO IT BY...M-MY! T-THIS TOBACCO...A PECULIAR ODOR...



THE THING



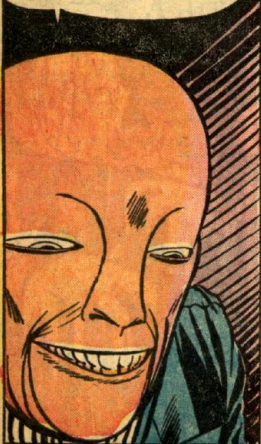
COVERED BY DEEP SHADOWS, FLEKO CARRIED HIS SAGGING BURDEN AWAY FROM THE CARNIVAL CAMP...



FATE MUST'VE SMILED AT ME...SENDING THIS RICH FOOL, AT THE VERY MOMENT THE SHOW ARRIVES HERE IN GRANITVILLE! EVEN IF THE BODY IS FOUND, IT'LL BE DECLARED AN ACCIDENT...



...AND I'LL BE GONE BY TOMORROW MORNING, ANYWAY! WITH THAT CHEST FULL OF GEMS! HEH HEH! MIGHTY CONSIDERATE OF HER TO LOCK UP THOSE SNAKES OF HERS... NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME!



GO AHEAD AND SNARL AT ME, YOU LOUSY MONSTERS! WHEN THEY DISCOVER THAT SATANA'S GONE THEY'LL PROBABLY CUT YOU UP TO MAKE BELTS AND POCKET BOOKS! AND I... HEH HEH... WILL HAVE ESCAPED FROM THIS CRUMMY LIFE!

THE GEMS WERE PAWNED AND FLEKO VANISHED FROM SIGHT. FOR A YEAR HE LIVED IN A MAD WHIRL, THEN, INEVITABLY, HIS MONEY WAS GONE. BACK TO THE CARNIVAL HE WENT...BACK TO HIS OLD JOB AS A FREAK. AND THERE WAS ANOTHER VICTIM READY...



THE THING

THIS IS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...ALMOST AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF WHAT HAPPENED ONCE BEFORE! A GAL WITH MONEY...THE DRUGGED CIGARETTE...THE CARNY PLAYING THE SAME TOWN...THE BODY DUMPED INTO THE SAME QUARRY!



G-GOT TO CATCH MY BREATH ... THIS GOON IS HEAVIER THAN THE OTHER ONE! I'LL PUSH HER OVER THE SIDE, RUN BACK TO CAMP AND PRY OPEN THAT MONEY BOX OF HERS, THEN ...



YOU'VE RETURNED, FLEXXO...COME BACK TO THIS FATEFUL PLACE SO THAT I CAN HAVE MY AWFUL VENGEANCE!

W-WHO...? I...I'VE BEEN FOLLOWED!

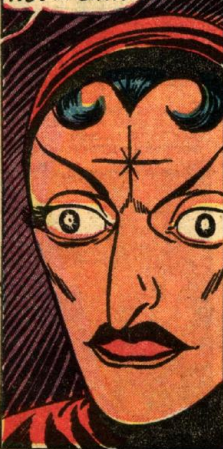


EVER SINCE THAT GHOSTLY DAY YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWED. FLEXXO... I NEVER LET YOU OUT OF MY MIND!

G-GOOD GOD! IT CAN'T BE...SATANA! B-BUT...YOU DIED... WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW YOU PLUNGE TO YOUR DEATH!



S-SOMEHOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE...BUT THIS TIME I'LL FINISH THE JOB WITH MY BARE HANDS! YOU WON'T ESCAPE...N-NO... NO! MY SKIN!



I-I'M ON FIRE...BURNING UP! G-GOT TO RUN...GET AWAY... GOT TO...

AIIIIIIII!



THE THING

THERE WAS A GHASTLY
SIZZLING SOUND, UP THERE
ON THE EDGE OF THE
ABANDONED QUARRY...
AND THE ACRID SMELL
OF BURNING RUBBER.
THEN, SUDDENLY,
THE FROG-FACED
GIRL STIRRED...



ONE LOOK AT THE JAGGED
QUARRY BELOW WAS ENOUGH
TO JOLT THE GIRL BACK TO
REALITY. A SCREECH
PIERCED THE NIGHT
SILENCE, AND MEN
CAME RUNNING...



T-THAT NEW
PERFORMER..
THE RUBBER
MAN.... HE
MUST'VE
DRUGGED THE
CIGARETTE
HE GAVE ME!
NEXT THING I
KNEW I WAS
HERE...

EITHER YOU'VE
HAD A TERRIBLE
NIGHTMARE, AND
IT'S ALL A DREAM
...OR HE PLANNED
TO THROW YOU
DOWN INTO THE
ROCKS!



THIS STUFF... FEELS GUMMY,
LIKE MELTED WAX! MEBBE
SOMEONE *DID* PLAN TO KILL
AGUATUS... ONLY HE SLID ON
THIS MESS AND FELL OVER
THE EDGE HIMSELF!



L-LOOK...
DOWN
THERE!

A...A BODY IN AMONG
THOSE JAGGED ROCKS! HE
MEANT TO MURDER
AGUATUS... AND DIED
HIMSELF! UGH! LET'S
GET OUTTA HERE...



THE FRIGHTENED ONLOOKERS PEERED INTO THE QUARRY,
THEN TURNED AND FLED IN FRIGHT!



DOWN BELOW, ON THE
MURDEROUS ROCKS WHERE
IT HAD PLUNGED A YEAR BEFORE,
SPRAWLED THE HALF-ROTTED CORPSE
OF SATANA, THE DEVIL WOMAN! *The Thing*

TUNNEL TO TERROR

There was a worried look on the face of John Harrison as he walked towards the shack that served as office for the Harrison Construction Company. He opened the door and entered, followed by Captain George Stuart of Homicide. The two men sat down at a table.

"I tell myself it just can't be," began John Harrison. "How can four men vanish in four days? Where are they? What happened? My men are getting scared, and I don't blame them. Just let this keep up, and they'll walk right off the job."

"There are several questions I would like to ask," replied the police officer. "Have you any enemies? Can you think of anyone who would profit by having the men off this particular job?"

John Harrison wrinkled his forehead, and he came right to the point with two definite answers.

"When you use the word enemies, then I must say that I haven't any. As a human being, I meet a lot of people and like some and dislike others. Guess the same goes for people who come into contact with me. But I just couldn't name a single man or woman and say that person is my enemy. Now for the other question. My company did not have any rivals for this job. We have a good labor group working with us, and they have been on most of my jobs before. I haven't a specific time clause in the contract to do this job because of its nature. Anything else you want to know?"

"Suppose you take me down to the bottom level and tell me about the nature of this work," demanded the police officer. "Maybe that will give is a clue. I have been in personal contact with the families of the missing men. They haven't any reason for the event taking place."

The two men left the shack and then walked over to an elevator. They entered it and went down for a distance of almost fifteen stories.

When the elevator stopped, the two men left it and walked along a boarded path. Electric lights were strung overhead.

"When completed, this will be the first garage of its type in the city," explained John Harrison. "On top there will be a playground for children. Instead of going up fifteen stories we were able to go down that distance. Seems that about a hundred years ago the south side of this section was sheer rock, but the east side was almost like a small valley. It was filled in with dirt and rocks to bring it up to an even level. That made excavation easy. Now right ahead of you is Tom Malley, in charge of the work down here. He checks every man in and out. The only way to get in or out of here is by using the elevator."

A stocky, middle-aged man came over to the two men and greeted his boss.

"Lou Martins," he began in a trembling voice, "is missing. I was going to call you on the phone. I stopped work, and we checked and double checked."

"Where was he last seen?" demanded the police officer. "If you can tell us that, then we can begin a search right now."

"He was working with Joe Ginty. They were pouring concrete. Come on, and we'll speak to Joe. He's all upset."

Joe Ginty was trembling as he looked at the men around him. He opened his mouth to speak and then stopped. He gasped for his breath, and finally the words came past his lips.

"Right here we were working. I was telling Lou that this Sunday we would go fishing with my brother-in-law. He just bought a boat at the exposition, a swell thirty-footer. Lou tells me it is a good idea, then he stops in the middle of a sentence. I turn around. Right here No Lou! Where did he go? Tell me that!"

Captain George Stuart looked directly at the rock that was in back of them. He picked up a hammer and tapped the rock. Then something

THE THING

startling happened. An entire section caved in, and there was exposed before their eyes a small tunnel.

"Get some lamps boys," shouted John Harrison. "Maybe the men are inside here. We'll take a look."

Five minutes later a small party, headed by the police officer, began to walk along a damp path. They hadn't gone more than two hundred feet, when they stopped in horror. Lined up against both sides of the tunnel were five corpses. You could see the agony on each man's face. The police officer looked carefully at each man and felt the face and neck.

"Broken neck," he said. "Something powerful hit each of these men. Well, whatever it is or was, that thing must be right around here. Maybe it is watching us now. This tunnel goes some place. Smartest thing we can do is follow it. I'll keep my gun in my hand just in case we run into this thing."

Onward the men walked, and the tunnel got larger and larger, until it seemed they were in something resembling a big underground hall or room.

"Look at the wall," shouted Tom Malley. "There's something that looks white and maybe like a person going up and down."

"I have a gun in my hand," announced the police officer. "And unless you come right here and surrender, I will shoot you." Closer and closer it came, and then suddenly Tom Malley gave an unearthly yell. It was all over in a second. His limp body fell to the floor. The police officer fired three times at the creature, but the bullets had no effect. They picked up Tom Malley, and there was no need to examine him to realize his neck was broken and he was dead.

"We better get out of here," suggested John Harrison, "or that creature will kill all of us. I don't know what it is. But whatever that thing is, one thing is certain. It isn't human."

"Suppose we go back and then return with a heavily armed police group," added Captain Stuart. "My bullets had no effect on it."

The men retraced their steps, and then suddenly the path on which they were walking began to sink. Down and down they went, until it seemed as though there was no end. They weren't hurt, and when they arose, they looked up. Fortunately their lights were not damaged.

"Looks like the bottom fell down," said Joe Ginty. "Look up and you can see where we were before."

But Captain George Stuart was busy with

something else. His light had fallen upon a slab which definitely marked a grave. He tried his best to read what was written on it. He bit his lips as though he were totally unsatisfied. A shout from above told them that other men had entered the tunnel.

"We'll get some ropes and get you out of there," said a voice above. "We just saw the bodies."

An hour later all the men were out of the tunnel. The bodies had been removed, and the men working on the excavation sent home for the day. Specialists from the Crime Laboratory took over and looked for some clue. A group of heavily armed policemen again went into the tunnel. They came up against a dead end and returned.

"I don't think we'll ever find out what really happened," said John Harrison. "If the police have no objection, we can seal up that wall and tunnel."

"Can't think of any legal reason why you can't do it," replied Captain George Stuart. "Maybe whatever the thing was, it will no longer trouble you and your men."

The new type garage was finished on time. There was a big celebration, with the mayor and the governor making speeches. John Harrison saw the police officer there and went to talk to him.

"Did you find out about the name on that tombstone, and did it give you a clue?"

The police officer stroked his chin, as though he wanted to stall for time. Maybe no answer would be demanded. He changed his mind.

"It took a lot of reading in old records to find an answer," he said. "And maybe the answer isn't an answer. This is the year 1954. Three hundred years ago a woman was hung as a witch and buried in that grave. She said that she really was a witch. She would return in three centuries and claim five human beings as a sacrifice. So, you can say it was the ghostly spirit of a hung witch who returned to keep a promise. Maybe it would have been better if she had never returned."

The police officer started to walk away when a question struck the mind of John Harrison. Perhaps it was only natural. Maybe he should never have asked it.

"The name of that witch? You forgot to mention her name."

"Mary Jane Harrison, the wife of Robert Harrison and you are the last descendant of that family."

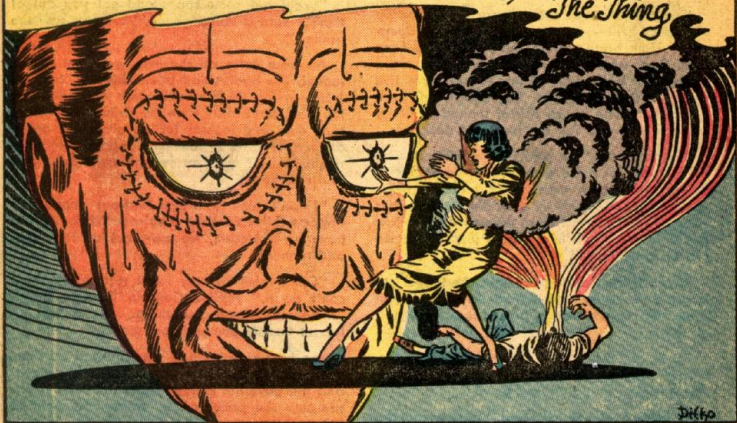
The End

THE THING

EVER BEEN DRIVEN BLIND WITH FURY...SO INSANELY BLIND THAT YOU PRAYED FOR THE CHANCE TO **MURDER**? IF NOT, THIS GRUESOME TALE SHOULD PROVE BOTH DIVERTING AND EDUCATIONAL, FOR IT OUTLINES WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO **YOU**...

IF LOOKS COULD KILL!

AS TOLD BY *The Thing*



DK60



THE THING

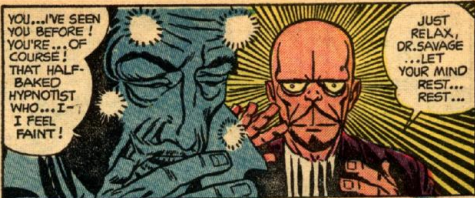
ARE YOU TWO INSANE? I'VE HALF A MIND TO BEAT YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIVES!

NO NEED TO TOUCH HIM, BRUMBY! THERE'S A MUCH EASIER WAY TO SUBDUCE THE GOOD DOCTOR!



YOU...I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE! YOU'RE...OF COURSE! THAT HALF-BAKED HYPNOTIST WHO...I-I FEEL FAINT!

JUST RELAX, DR. SAVAGE...LET YOUR MIND REST...REST...



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, MERLIN! ONE LOOK OUTA THEM EYES OF YOURS, AND THEY'RE ALL LIKE PUTTY! WHAT'S YOUR SECRET, HUH?

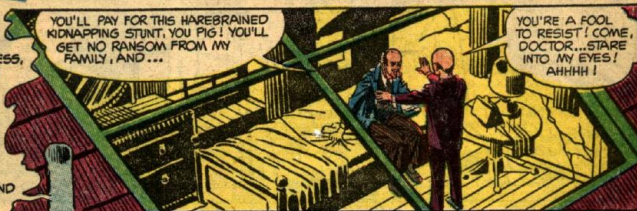
A POWER YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, BRUMBY! HURRY... INTO THE CAR WITH HIM! AS SOON AS WE GET TO THE HOUSE WE CAN PUT OUR PLAN INTO ACTION!



SLOWLY DR. SAVAGE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND FOUND HIMSELF SLUMPED ON A CRUDE BED IN AN OMINOUS DARKENED ROOM. HE LOOKED UP GROGGILY, AND SAW...

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS HAREBRAINED KIDNAPPING STUNT, YOU PIG! YOU'LL GET NO RANSOM FROM MY FAMILY, AND...

YOU'RE A FOOL TO RESIST! COME, DOCTOR...STARE INTO MY EYES! AHHHH!



I COULD DO A NEAT JOB OF TORTURING YOU WITH YOUR OWN INSTRUMENTS IN THE BAG ON THE TABLE...BUT I PREFER MY OWN PECULIAR METHODS! STARE AT ME, SAVAGE...LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES!



AS THE DOCTOR STARED AT THE UNEARTHLY ORBS GLITTERING FIERCELY AT HIM, A GROTESQUE **THING** OCCURRED...

M-MY EYES...THEY'VE BEEN BURNT TO CINDERS! I...I'VE BEEN **BLINDED**....

AIEEEEE!



THE THING



WITH FINGERS SKILLED BY COUNTLESS DANGEROUS OPERATIONS, THE SURGEON SHOULISHLY TRANSPLANTS THE DEAD HYPNOTIST'S EYES INTO HIS OWN...



THE THING



THE THING

MERLIN...BRUMBY...WHERE ARE YOU? EVERYTHING'S SET FOR THE BIG CLEAN-UP! IN ANOTHER HOUR WE'LL HAVE THE CASH, THEN WE CAN ALL MAKE TRACKS! THEY WON'T FIND THE BODY FOR WEEKS...BY THAT TIME WE'LL BE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HERE!



HIS FAMILY'LL NEVER KNOW THAT THE BIG JERK'S OWN WIFE WAS THE ONE WHO PUT THE FINGER ON HIM! THIS'LL TEACH HIM TO BE SO STINGY WITH HIS FORTUNE...**G-GUSTAVE!** HOW...HOW DID YOU...?

YOUR PRETTY SPEECH WAS EXTREMELY REVEALING, MY DEAREST!



Y-YOU... THOSE EYES... IT...IT CAN'T BE!

SO **YOU** WERE BEHIND THIS WHOLE FILTHY KIDNAPPING, EH? THIS IS MY REPAYMENT FOR PICKING YOU UP OUT OF THE GUTTER, MARRYING YOU AND MAKING A LADY OUT OF YOU, IS IT?



P-PLEASE, GUSTAVE... HAVE MERCY! DON'T...

YOU WERE HEARTLESS ENOUGH TO BETRAY YOUR OWN HUSBAND TO THESE DEPRAVED CRIMINALS...NOW YOU SHALL BE TRULY **HEARTLESS!**



DIE, YOU WORTHLESS, TREACHEROUS WORM...**DIE!**

AAIEEE



NO ONE HAS EVER POSSESSED SUCH ENORMOUS POWER AS I HAVE AT THIS MOMENT! **HEH, HEH, HEH!** I'M FREE TO EXACT VENGEANCE ON THE FOOLS WHO HAVE CROSSED ME...DR. CRESS WILL BE NEXT! **HEH, HEEEEEEEE!**



THE THING

THAT INSULTING YOUNG MEDICAL ASSISTANT MUST GO...AND THE HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT! EVERYONE I'VE EVER FOUND ANNOYING WILL BE BURNT TO ASHES...THEY'LL SOON LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HATED BY DR. GUSTAVE SAVAGE! **HEH! HEH!**

HEH!

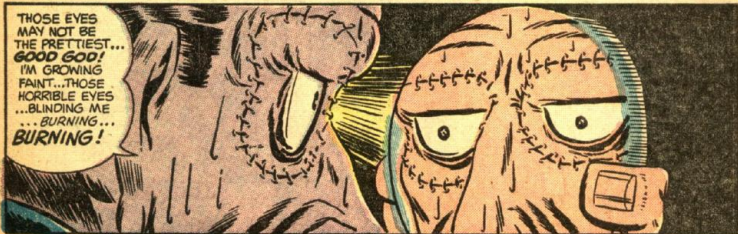


GOODBYE, IDIOTS! THE WORMS WILL SOON BE CRAWLING THROUGH YOUR MISERABLE REMAINS, WHILE I... THAT... **MIRROR!** FELL OUT OF ANITA'S PURSE! I MUST SEE WHAT MY NEW EYES LOOK LIKE!



I WAS THE GREATEST SURGEON WHO EVER LIVED. BEFORE THAT SLIMY LITTLE HYPNOTIST ROBBED ME OF MY SIGHT! NOW I MUST SEE WHAT THE GREATEST MAN IN ALL HISTORY LOOKS LIKE! FOR THAT'S WHAT I'LL SOON BE...NO ONE CAN STAND IN MY WAY AND LIVE!

THOSE EYES MAY NOT BE THE PRETTIEST... **GOOD GOD!** I'M GROWING FAINT...THOSE HORRIBLE EYES...BLINDING ME...BURNING... **BURNING!**



N-NO...**NO!** THAT DAZZLING, BUNDING RADIANCE... THAT AGONIZING HEAT...LIKE A WHITE-HOT BLOW-TORCH TURNED ON ME! I...I...

ARGHHHHH!



A SHRIEK OF AGONY BURST FROM DR. GUSTAVE SAVAGE'S SEARED LIPS, AS HE SAGGED LIFELESSLY TO THE FLOOR. A MOMENT LATER, THE MIRROR VANISHED...IN AN EERIE PUFF OF DEADLY SMOKE!



A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE, YOU SAY? **AYE!** BUT... **HEE HEE HEE!**...YOU'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR OWN YOU-KNOW-WHAT, HAVEN'T YOU?

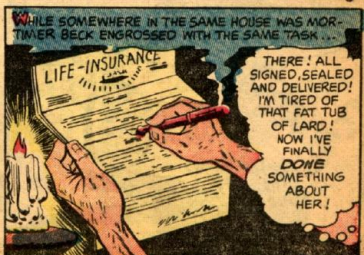
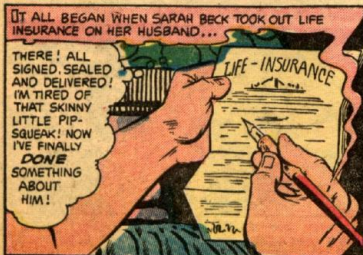
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THE THING

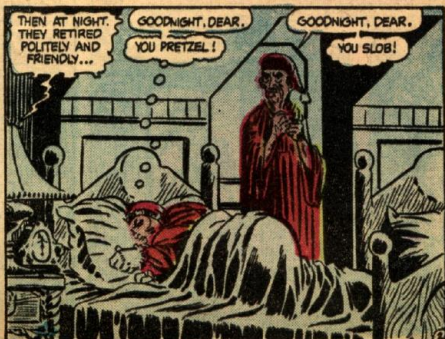
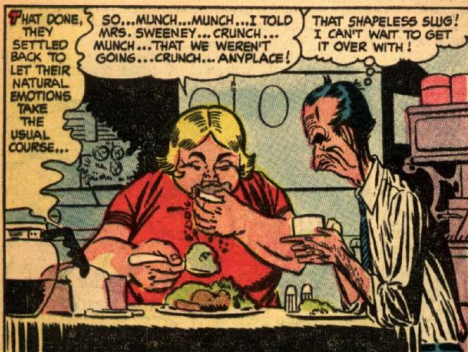
THIS IS THE STORY OF A MAN AND A WIFE WHO LOVED EACH OTHER TO DEATH! FIRST THEY BEGAN BY TAKING OUT INSURANCE ON EACH OTHER. THEN THEY BOTH GOT NIGHTMARES. AND FINALLY--WELL ... READ ON --- AND YOU'LL SEE THIS LITTLE ...

FAMILY MIXUP

AS TOLD BY *The Thing*



THE THING



THE THING

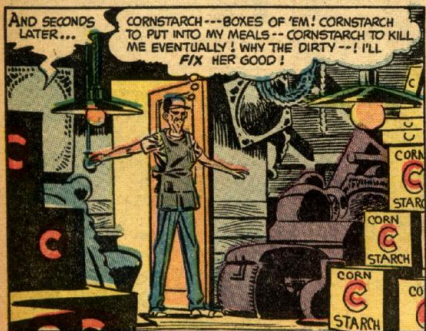
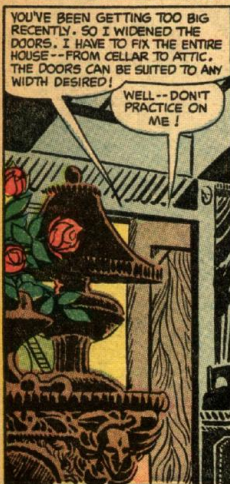
BUT NIGHT BROUGHT A NIGHTMARE TO SARAH...



WHILE MORT HAD A DIFFERENT NIGHTMARE...



THE THING



THE THING

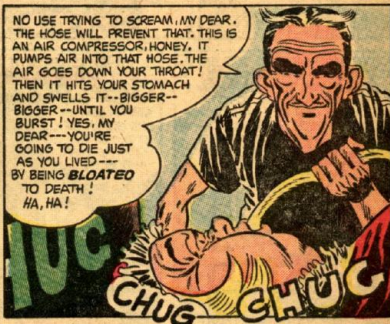
AND TOMORROW WAS THE DAY! WHEN SARAH AWOKE..

WHA---T ? I---I'M
STRAPPED DOWN!
MORT--W-WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO DO ?
ANSWER ME !

THIS IS A RUBBER HOSE ,MY
DEAR. I'M GOING TO STICK
IT DOWN YOUR THROAT!

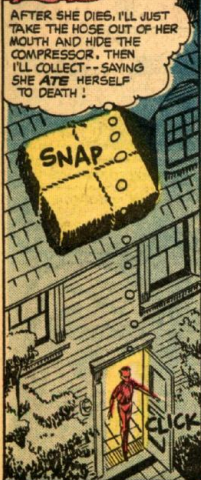


NO USE TRYING TO SCREAM ,MY DEAR.
THE HOSE WILL PREVENT THAT. THIS IS
AN AIR COMPRESSOR ,HONEY. IT
PUMPS AIR INTO THAT HOSE. THE
AIR GOES DOWN YOUR THROAT!
THEN IT HITS YOUR STOMACH
AND SWELLS IT--BIGGER--
BIGGER--UNTIL YOU
BURST ! YES, MY
DEAR---YOU'RE
GOING TO DIE JUST
AS YOU LIVED---
BY BEING **BLOATED**
TO DEATH !
HA, HA !



LEAVING HIS WIFE TO HER FATE,
MORT BECK STEPPED OUTSIDE,
WHISTLING ...

AFTER SHE DIES, I'LL JUST
TAKE THE HOSE OUT OF HER
MOUTH AND HIDE THE
COMPRESSOR. THEN
I'LL COLLECT--SAYING
SHE **ATE** HERSELF
TO DEATH !



BUT SARAH HAD GONE TO THE ATTIC --
NOT FOR CORNSTARCH--BUT TO FIX
THE STONE SLAB SO IT COULD TOPPLE
DOWN THE MOMENT SOMEONE STEPPED
THROUGH THE DOOR--SOMEONE LIKE MORT,
WHO WOULD GO TO WORK EARLY THAT
NEXT MORNING--- SO MORT BECK WAS
MADE EVEN **SKINNIER** BY THE
CRUSHING WEIGHT! AND NOW NEITHER
ONE WOULD COLLECT IN THIS **FAMILY**
MIXUP! HEH, HEH, HEH...!





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The 4-way MORE-WATE tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! MORE-WATE is a delicious, full strength, 4-way tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for gaining weight known to medical science. MORE-WATE is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's delicious, pleasant-tasting tablet! It contains vitamin B-12 . . . the amazing red vitamin doctors give many underweight patients in hospitals . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin B-1 . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into well rounded flesh instead of being wasted. **That's the secret of putting on weight.** Now you can help your food to add new pounds to your arms, chest, hips, thighs, and legs. Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything. Act now!

We don't want SKINNY on our team!



dangerous drugs . . . you eat it like candy! Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain 4-way MORE-WATE tablets . . . a full 10 days' supply . . . for just \$1.00 or a 30 day supply for only \$2.98, plus a 10 day supply free, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try MORE-WATE for TEN DAYS . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and weight to gain! Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads

Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

SENSATIONAL 10-DAY TEST!

Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing MORE-WATE tablet plan for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have gained weight and look better you pay nothing!

MAIL THIS NO RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!

MORE-WATE CO., Dept. 100
318 Market Street, Newark, N. J.
Just mail us your name and address, and \$1.00 cash, check or money order. You will receive a 10 day supply of MORE-WATE tablets and plan, postage prepaid.

☐ Send me 30 day supply plus an extra 10 day supply (that's a 40 day supply) for \$2.98. I understand that if I am not delighted with MORE-WATE tablets and plan, I can return the 30 day supply in 10 days for full purchase price refund, and keep the 10 day supply without charge.

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....

SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST



Mrs. Ruth
Long

Friends! Here's How To Get

AT
Almost

NO COST

Your **NEW**
Real, LIVE

MINIATURE DOG

Supply
Limited

SEND
TODAY!

I'll be happy to send you without you paying a penny, this lovable, young, miniature DOG that is so tiny when even fully grown you can carry it in your pocket or hold it in one hand, yet it barks and is a reliable watch dog as well as a pet. You can keep it in a shoe box and enjoy many amusing hours teaching it tricks . . . active, healthy, intelligent and clean. Simply hand out only 20 get-acquainted coupons to friends and relatives to help us get that many new customers as per our premium letter. I enjoy my own lively, tiny dog so much. It is such wonderful company that I'm sure you'll simply love one yourself.

Please send me your favorite snapshot, photo or Kodak picture when writing for your Miniature Dog. We will make you a beautiful 5x7 inch enlargement in a handsome "Movietone" frame SO YOU CAN TELL YOUR FRIENDS about our bargain hand-colored enlargements when handing out the get-acquainted coupons free. Just mail me your favorite snapshot, print or negative NOW and pay the postman only 19c plus postage when your treasured enlargement arrives and I'll include the "Movietone" frame at no extra cost. LIMIT of 2 to any one person. Your original returned with your enlargement and frame. Also include the COLOR OF HAIR AND EYES with each picture, so I can also give you our bargain offer on a second enlargement artfully hand colored in oils for natural beauty, sparkle and life, like we have done for thousands of others.

I'm so anxious to send you a miniature dog that I hope you will send me your name, address and favorite snapshot, right away and get your 20 enlargement coupons to hand out free. Mrs. Ruth Long, Gift Manager.

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HOME



MRS. RUTH LONG
DEAN STUDIOS, DEPT. X-374
211 W. 7TH ST., DES MOINES 2, IOWA

I would like to receive the miniature dog. Please send me premium letter and 20 coupons to hand out free.

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Color Hair..... Color Hair.....

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

DEAN STUDIOS

Dept. X-374, 211 W. 7th St.
Des Moines 2, Iowa

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Truly a photographic bargain of bargains. Simply send us your favorite photo with 1 and 20 BILLFOLD SIZE pictures on double weight, portrait paper will be rushed back to you with original photo. No delay. Work completed within 3 days. Order as many units of 20 billfold size from your favorite picture as desired. Please enclose cash, check or money order with your photo today.

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ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE.....

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DES MOINES 2, IOWA

UP TO \$8.75 STUDIO
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